analyzing each of the obtained digital images and comparing said analyzed obtained digital images with reference digital image data representative of an optimum image, said central processing unit further creating batches of digital images from the multiple customer orders, the images in each batch having similar identification data, such that a batch of images may include images from different customer orders, said central processing unit further determining an output sequence of each of said obtained digital images to said output devices based on at least the associated identification data;

    providing a digital image product based on the obtained digital image at said digital output device; and

    combining the digital image product from the output devices with a related original order from said original orders using the associated identification data.

    3. (Twice amended) A method of producing digital image products in a photofinishing lab, the photofinishing lab having a plurality of image obtaining devices for obtaining a plurality of digital images from multiple customer orders, a plurality of digital output devices for providing a plurality of digital image products based on the obtained digital images, and a central processing unit, the method comprising the steps of:

    associating each obtained digital image with identification data;

    sending each of said obtained digital images and their associated identification data to the central processing unit, the central processing unit analyzing each of the obtained digital images and comparing said analyzed obtained digital images with reference digital image data representative of an optimum image, said central processing unit further creating batches of digital images from the multiple customer orders, the images in each batch having similar identification data, such that a batch of images may include images from different customer orders, said central processing unit further determining an output sequence of each of said obtained digital images to said output devices based on at least the associated identification data;

    providing a digital image product based on the obtained digital image at said digital output device; and

combining the digital image product from the output devices with a related original order from said original orders using the associated identification data;

wherein said identification data is product/service data indicative of a type of digital image product for the digital output image, such that the central processing unit modifies the obtained digital images in accordance with the product/service data and the output device to which the obtained digital image is to be sent.

Please cancel claims 34 and 42-46 without prejudice or disclaimer.